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(A)
Description
OF THE
Isle of Thanet,
and particularly of the
TOWN of MARGATE;
WITH

An Account of the Accommodations provided there for Strangers; their manner of Bathing in the Sea, and Machines for that purpose; their Assemblies, Amusements and Diversions, public and private; the Antiquities and remarkable Places to be seen on the Island, as well as on some Short but pleasant Tours along the Coasts of Kent; with a Description of Sandwich, Deal, Dover, Canterbury, Rochester, Chatham, and other Places eminent for their Situation, and celebrated in Antient History.

The whole illustrated with a correct Map of the Island, a Plan of Ramsgate-Pier, and a Representation of the Machines for Bathing.

L O N D O N .

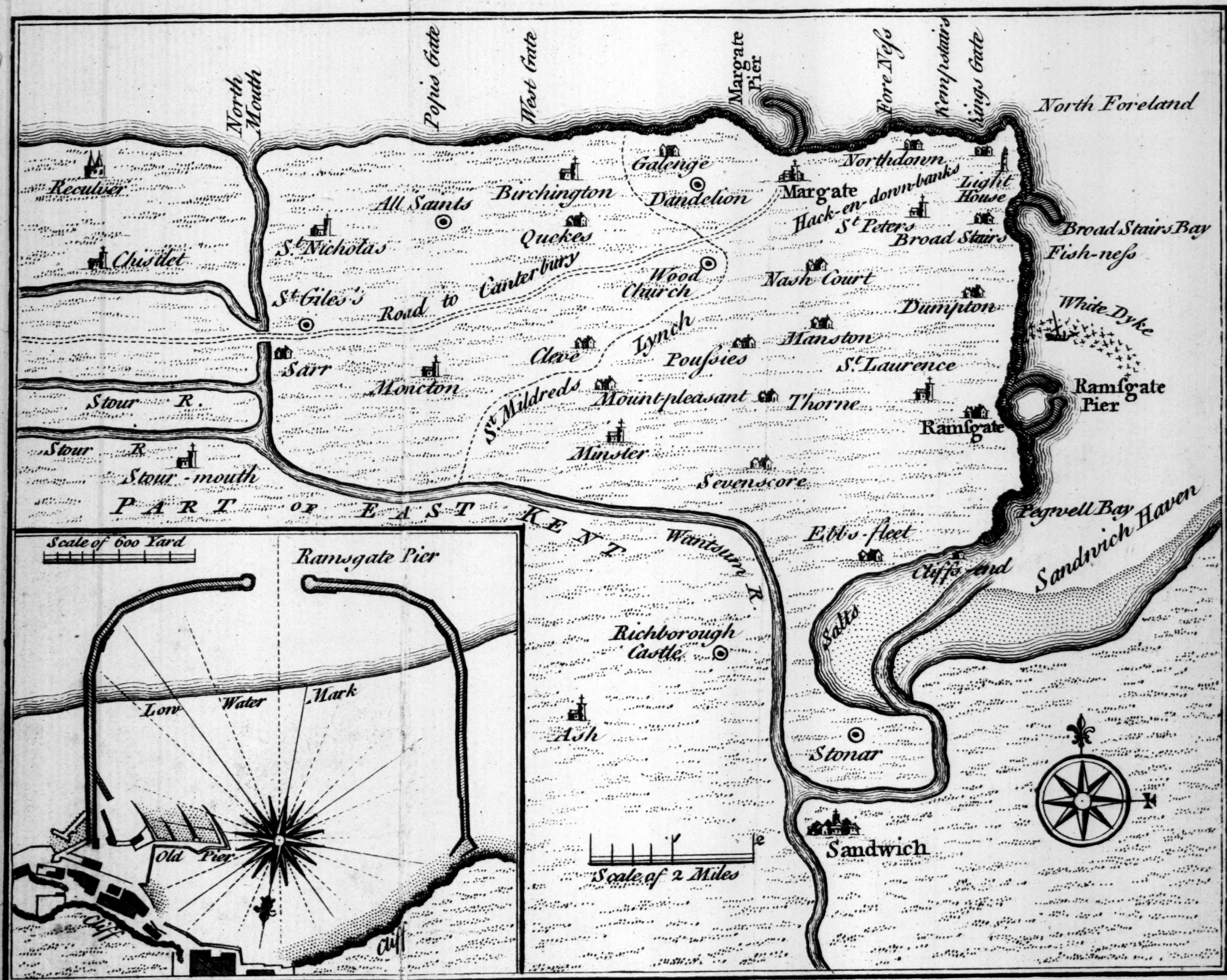
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F. S. Banks





A MAP of the ISLE of THANET.

To *****.

Margate, May 1, 1763.

SIR,

IT gives me great pleasure to hear, by your obliging letter, that you design to spend some part of the Summer at this place. You are welcome to any information which it may be in my Power to give you concerning it. I think your questions respect the Isle of *Thanet* in general, the Situation of *Margate*, its Accommodations, Provisions, Manner of Bathing, and Amusements, Places which attract the notice of Strangers in the neighbourhood, and along the coast. To prevent confusion, I shall give you a short account of each of them, as they lie in order.

The Isle of *Thanet* probably derived its name from the British word Isle of *THANET*. *Tan*, or Fire; either on account of the many Beacons formerly erected there, to alarm the country in case of an invasion, or from the Fire kindled nightly on the *North Foreland*, as a direction to mariners, to shun the rocks and sands which this part of the coast abounds with. Others again derive its name from *Thanatos*, a Greek word, signifying *Death*, because no serpents or venomous creatures will live in it; but this conjecture is not very probable. It may much better be derived from the Saxon *Þænet*, which may be translated, *moist* or *watry*, as it is encompassed with water, and many parts of it low and damp. I must not forget to observe, the Saxon word *tene*

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has

has the same meaning as the *British* word *Tan* above-mentioned.

It is situated on the North East point of *Kent*, from which it is separated by the River *Wantsum*, which you pass over by a small bridge at *Sarr*, the place of the ancient ferry. It was formerly navigable from *Sandwich* Haven on one side, to *North-mouth*, near *Reculver*, on the other. Small ships usually passed this way from *Boulogne* and *Calais* to *London*, without going round the *Fore-land*; but the River is now almost choaked up.

The extent of the island is about nine miles from East to West, and eight miles from North to South. It contains ten Parishes, but only seven Parish Churches: There were formerly three others, of which there are not, at this time, the least Remains. It is divided into two capital manors of *Mynstre* and *Mouneton*, by *St. Mildred's* Lynch, which follows the fabulous course of *Dompneva's* Deer. This Lynch, or Balk, runs on the West side of the parish of *Mynstre*, quite across the island to *West-gate*. It may not perhaps be unentertaining to digress a little, and relate the Story of *Dompneva's* Deer, as told by the Monks.

Thorne, a native of *Mynstre*, and afterwards a Monk of *St. Austir's*, tells us, that A. D. 670, in the 72d year of the coming of *St. Austin* the Monk, a Monastery was founded here, which, he says, was done on the following occasion: *Ermenred*, King of *Kent*, had by his Queen *Oslana* two sons, *Ethelred* and *Ethebyrth*, and four daughters, *Ermemburgh*, *Dompneva*, *Ermemburg*, and *Ermemgriha*. King *Ermenred*, dying, left his two sons to the care of his brother *Ercumbert*, who fulfilled his brother's will so long as he lived. But he, dying before the two Princes came of age, left them to his son *Egbrit*, who succeeded him likewise in the regency. He, *Thorne* says, to secure the kingdom

kingdom to himself, ordered his Lieutenant *Tunor* to put the two Princes to death; who, in obedience to his Master's commands, murdered them at *Estry*, about six Miles from *Mynstre*, where they were kept in the King's palace; and the more effectually to prevent any discovery, buried their bodies under the Royal throne. But the murder being detected by a light from Heaven, which pointed to the very place where the bodies of the Royal infants lay, *Egbrit* was, it seems, very much afraid, and was prevailed upon by *St. Theodore*, Archbishop of *Canterbury*, and *St. Adrian*, Abbot of *St. Austin*, and by the clamours of his subjects, to send to *Dompneva* (who, having been married to *Penda*, King of the *Mercians*, and borne him one son and three daughters, who, it seems, were all saints, viz. *St. Milburgh*, *St. Mildred*, and *St. Milgith*, had, with her husband, taken on her the vow of chastity) to ask her pardon, and make her satisfaction, for his consenting to the parricide and wickedness that was committed. Accordingly the King did send for her, and came before her in a very sorrowful manner, asking her pardon, and laying before her a great many rich presents. But *Dompneva* very generously pardoned the King, without accepting any of the rich presents, and only requested him to grant her a place in *Tenet*, where she might build a Monastery in memory of her two brothers, with a competent maintenance, in which she might, with the virgins devoted to God, and obliged to her, pray to the Lord to pardon and forgive the King for the murder of her brothers. *Egbrit* granted this petition of hers, asking her how much land she pleased to have. *Dompneva* very modestly answers, *Only as much as my Deer can run over at one course*, (which, according to the Monks account, was above ten thousand acres of some of the best land

in *Kent*.) This being granted, the Deer was let loose, at a place called *West-gate*, in the presence of the King, and many of his Nobles and People, the King and they following her, and expecting the event. *Tunor*, the King's Lieutenant, and the envious Murderer, being present, cried out, that *Dompneva* was a witch, and the King a fool, in yielding so far to her, as to let so noble and fruitful a soil be taken from him by the decision of a brute; and whilst the King and the rest of the company were diverted in seeing the Deer run, he endeavoured to put her by, with riding across and meeting her. But whilst he was thus acting, the Wrath of God (say the Monks) came upon him; the earth opening swallowed him up, and the place was called *Tunor's-Leap*, or *Thunor-Hyslepe*, to perpetuate the memory of his punishment. We are told it was afterwards called *Heghigdale*. The King, on this very much feared and trembled, and his guilty conscience smote him. The Deer having finished her course from one side of the island to the other, and run over in breadth and length forty-eight plough-lands, followed her Mistress *Dompneva*, and the King immediately gave thanks to *Jesus-Christ*, and delivered to her the land the Deer had run over, and confirmed it to her Ecclesiastical Posterity. *Dompneva* founded, in the same land, a Cloyster of Virgins on the South-side of the island, near the water. Thus do the Monks tell the Story of this famous Abbey, known afterwards by the name of *St. Mildred's Abbey*. But in truth what they call the Deer's Course is no more than a Lynch, or Balk, cast up to divide the two capital manors, and was probably here before the manor of *Mynstre* was granted to *Dompneva*. The *Puteus Thunor*, or *Thunor's Leap*, is very plainly the old Chalk-pit, called *Mynstre Chalk-pit*, which, it is not unlikely, was first sunk when the

the Abbey and Church of *Mynstre* were built. However this be, there is not on the island, at this time, any place that goes by the name of *Thunor's-Leap*, or even the modern name, as it is called by the Monks, of *Heghigdale*.

But to return from this long digression : The lower side of the island, on the South and South West, abounds in pasturage, but it lies low and marshy, and the inhabitants of it are much subject to Agues. On the upper part, to the East and North, it is separated from the Ocean by a high perpendicular cliff of chalk. The soil is quite dry, and the air remarkably pure : It would be more pleasant, were it not quite so often ruffled by winds from the sea : It is rather too keen in Winter for persons of tender constitutions. Here were formerly woods, of which the places still retain the names, but the names only, for they have been long since cut down to make room for the plough. The whole surface of the country is almost as level as a plat-form. In this part of the island is great plenty of all kinds of corn and grain, but there are very few pastures. The inhabitants are, usually, healthy and long-lived. I am credibly informed, that out of twenty-three people who were buried the last year at *St. Peter's*, (the parish next adjoining to this,) ten of them were of the age of seventy-eight years and upwards ; and at the same place, in the year 1760, five old persons were interred, whose ages, as they dropped in, in successive order, amounted to near four hundred years. There have been formerly, many seats of Gentlemen of good families, but very few remain ; the estates have been mostly alienated, and the Mansion-houses fallen into the hands of tenants.

The Roads about the islands are rendered so intricate, by means of many short turnings, as to be extremely disagreeable to those who are not well

acquainted with them. The inhabitants of *Ramsgate*, from a just sense of the respect due to Strangers, have lately erected Guide-posts in all places of difficulty within their precinct; and I hope the adjacent parishes will not hesitate to follow so truly laudable an example. Nor is this the only inconvenience; for the Bye-roads are by no means fit for quartering carriages. It is but a short time since they have been much used by any others, than those employed in husbandry; but the Landholders, now finding themselves every where under a necessity of rendering the ways passable, or of having their corn trampled down, are beginning to make improvements of this sort. As various articles, which are the produce of their farms, bear an advanced price, on account of the late great resort of Gentry to this place, there can be no doubt but that they will, in a short time, be very glad to do every thing in their power to oblige and accommodate them, even for their own sakes.

Agriculture is carried here to a degree of perfection, perhaps not to be found in any other part of the known world. I shall give you a few general remarks on it; but do not chuse to speak particularly on a subject to which I am so utterly a stranger; nor would I anticipate the pleasure you will receive from your own observation, and the very accurate and just account of these matters, published by Mr. *Lewis*. The land, which in almost all other places is laid in ridge and furrow, is here nearly as level as a bowling-green. The Farmers spare neither labour nor expence to keep the corn clean: You will be surprized to find, that in the compass of some miles there is hardly a weed to be seen in it. The soil in some parts is clay, in others of a black mould, but in general light and chalky. In dry seasons, all kinds of grain are
much

much injured by heat. The ground affords the most plentiful produce, at a time when other places are almost drowned with rain: Hence arose the old monkish proverb,

*When England wrings *,
The island sings.*

On the parts near the coast the soil is manured by a mixture of sea waur, chalk, and other dung, by the assistance of which the Farmers reap good crops of all kinds of corn, from land, which you would not believe, from its appearance, to be capable of producing any thing. Of late years great profits have been made by the sowing of Clover, Saint-foin, la Lucerne grass, and Canary-seed. The cultivation of Woad has not been as yet introduced, which I much wonder at, being well assured that, in places where it thrives, it is become a very lucrative article of business. The winds are too boisterous for Hops. All manner of grain is cut very short, for the convenience of lodging it in barns, which is here universally practised: Very little of it is seen in stacks abroad, as in other counties. Oats, Barley, Beans, &c. are all bound in sheaves, which prevents much waste in the carriage. The instruments of husbandry are of a very different form from those I have ever seen in use elsewhere; but a description of them in words only, without the aid of a plate, would be unintelligible, and consequently useless. The farms near *Mynstre* and *St. Nicholas* are, for the most part, large, and the occupiers of them wealthy and hospitable. In other places, where they are smaller, the tenants make a comfortable livelihood; their corn (except what is expended at home) is shipped at *Margate*, and sold for ready money in *London*, and I believe the land is usually

* i. e. is wringing wet.

rented on very moderate terms. But notwithstanding this, they lie under some considerable disadvantages, as the great difficulty of procuring dung, and the trouble and expence many of them are at in drawing it to a considerable distance. The wages of labourers and servants are very high; and in time of war so many men go into the navy, on the certainty of better pay, or in hopes of prize money, or preferment, that it is no easy matter to procure hands sufficient for carrying on the common business of agriculture, at any price. As to the common people, take Mr. *Cambden's* account of them in his own words. " They are " (says he) a sort of amphibious animals, who " get their living both by sea and land, as having to do with both elements, being Fishermen " and Husbandmen, and equally skilled in holding " the helm or the plough. According to the " seasons of the year, they knit nets (not much " of this) catch cods, herrings, mackarels, &c. " go voyages and export merchandizes: The very same persons dung the land, plough, sow, " reap, and carry in the corn." See *Britannia*, page 240. They work hard and live hard, and are truly industrious. Their houses are kept remarkably neat.

Some old words, which are mostly of *Saxon* derivation, are still retained, Mr. *Lewis* has been at the pains to make a collection of them; but as the natives become daily more civilized, by a more free and general intercourse with strangers than ever they had before, even these are fallen greatly into disuse. The language which is spoke in general (a few peculiarities excepted) is very tolerably correct. As to the natural history of the island there is little to be said; I have never heard of any minerals or fossils which deserve notice. In some of the low marshes, near the sea, a large field

field is opened to the observation of the curious Botanist; many rare and valuable plants being found there, whose names are recited at large in the latter edition of Mr. *Lewis's History of Thanet*. I am not well enough acquainted with this science to make any remarks on it, which may be likely either to be useful or entertaining, but, if enquiries of this kind afford you any manner of amusement, you will hardly want leisure or inclination to pursue them when you are on the spot.

You will be astonished to see the prodigious quantity of Fennel which grows wild, forming, in some places near the sea, hedges of almost a mile in length. If the value of the Honey which is produced here was known, the inhabitants would certainly take care to procure more of it. It is remarkably fine, and probably receives its peculiar advantage of flavour, from the great abundance of wild thyme which the bees every where find, on the banks and in the hedge rows. I will conclude this account of the island with two old monkish lines, formerly legible on one of the churches:

*Insula rotunda Thanatos, quam circuit Unda,
Fertilis & munda, nulli est in Orbe secunda.*

Which may be thus translated, in their own way:

“ *Thanet*, round isle, by water compass'd reckon'd

“ Fertile and clean, to none on earth the second.

MARGATE, or *St. John's*, is situated on the North side of the island, and is MARGATE, a member of the town and port of *Dover*, to which it is subject in all matters of civil jurisdiction. It lies seventy-two miles South East of *London*. The principal Street is near a mile in length, and built on an easy descent, by which means the upper part is clean and dry, but the

the lower end much otherwise. Why this inconvenience is not remedied is more than I know, as there is certainly a sufficient fall for drains into the sea, and millions of loads of pebbles lie useless on the beach, within five hundred yards of it. The place, which is called the Parade, faces the harbour, and has several good houses built on it.

The Harbour is pleasant, but not
 Harbour. greatly frequented, for want of a depth of water sufficient for ships of heavy burden; nevertheless, an immense quantity of corn and grain of all kinds is shipped here for *London*. It is difficult to determine at what time *Margate* Pier was first built; but as, since the inking of the level on the South side of this island, the sea has borne harder on the East and North sides, so that the land on each side the creek was, in process of time, quite washed away by the sea, the inhabitants were obliged to build a Pier, to prevent their town from being overflowed. This Pier was at first but small, and went but a little way from the land; but the cliffs still continuing to wash away, it has been by degrees enlarged to what it now is. This Pier is maintained and preserved by certain rates or payments, called *Droits*, of all goods and commodities, shipped or landed. As the passage from *England* to *Holland* is reckoned the shortest from this place, it has often been visited of late years, by great Personages who have gone over thither; particularly, King *William* often came hither, in his way to and from *Holland*; King *George I.* landed twice here, and *George II.* once; the late Queen *Caroline*, with the young Princesses, landed and lay here, when they first came to *England*; and the great Duke of *Marlborough* generally chose this for his place of embarking and landing, when he went to, and returned from, his campaigns.

The

The lodgings, tho' small, are neat and tolerably commodious, considering Lodgings that they are now applied to the reception of Strangers, for which purpose they were never originally intended. Some good houses have been built within a few years, and others are building : The old ones daily receive all the improvements they are capable of.

Provisions are good, but in general dear. Large quantities of Fish are Provisions. taken, the finest of which bear a good price, the rest are sold cheap enough. About seventy years ago one *Prince*, of this place, made himself famous for brewing a particular sort of Ale, which, from its being first brewed at *Northdown*, went by the name of *Northdown Ale*, and afterwards was called *Margate Ale*. But whether the art died with the inventor, or the humour of the Gentry and People altered, we have now no such Ale: *Prince* drove a great trade in it. Eels were formerly caught in such plenty here, that the Fishermen used to measure them by the bushel, but they are now scarce, owing perhaps to the great quantities of sea woore, or waure, that is taken from the rocks, to mix with dung, or burn and make kelp, as these weeds used to afford harbour and food for eels, and other fish of like nature, which lie near the shore.

The principal House of Entertainment is the New Inn, kept by *Mitchener*: The accommodations of it, with respect to neatness and good entertainment, can hardly fail to recommend it. Houses of Entertainment.

Here is likewise a Coffee-house, as well as other Inns and Publick-houses; Coffee-house. in one of which is a fine new Billiard-table, with a very neat apparatus.

The Bathing-rooms are not large, Bathing, &c. but convenient. Here the company often wait for their turns of Bathing.

The Guides attend, Sea-water is drank, the Ladies dresses are taken care of, and all business of the like kind is managed. There are three of these Rooms, which employ eleven Machines till near the time of high-water, which at the ebb of tide, sometimes runs two or three hundred yards into the Bay. The sands are so safe and clean, and every convenience for bathing is carried to so great perfection, that it is no wonder this place should be frequented by such multitudes of people, who go into the sea either for health or pleasure.

Machines. As the most useful Machine, employed for this purpose, is the original contrivance of *Benjamin Beale*, a Quaker, he has undeniably the right of a first claimant to the reward of his ingenuity. Its structure is simple, but perfectly convenient. You will understand the form of it better by the annexed Plate, than by any description which could be given in words. I am so well pleased with the invention of the Umbrella, that I much wish to see it extended to the purposes of Bathing in fresh water: It may be, with great ease, affixed to a small room, built on the edge of a canal, or any running stream, where the water can be confined to a proper height. If it be of a right depth, and the bottom be good, nothing further is necessary; but if it be muddy or stony, a * Stage of close cross-barred grating of wood must be sunk, in such manner as to remedy the inconvenience. If it be too deep, the like kind of grating, of the dimension, of the umbrella, may be fastened to piles, or by various other methods, at any depth, and

* These Stages are in use at *Deal*, where it would be impossible to bathe on the stony beach without them.

secured by rails, so as to prevent all possibility of danger. By the aid of this contrivance, Ladies, who have been excluded from the benefit of Bathing in most parts of *England*, except in water, whose degree of cold is too intense to be agreeable, (I mean the Cold Bath,) may now enjoy all the pleasures of Bathing, whenever they please, in so private a manner, as to be consistent with the most strict delicacy. This is only given as a hint, which may be capable of many improvements. Excuse this short digression; I hope it may not prove useless.

I do not think myself a proper judge of the efficacy of Sea-bathing, having never had occasion to consider it but as an amusement. I will, however, venture to say, that in all cases where Bathing can be of service, this must be at least equal to any other; and in all disorders of the skin, or where the complaints are external, infinitely superior. Its salutary effects are daily experienced in the Rheumatism, and in scorbutick and scrophulous habits; nor is it found, that Patients are more liable to a relapse who have been cured by this method, than by other medicines. Nevertheless, it must sometimes happen, from the injudicious use of it, that the sick will go away disappointed of the relief they expected to have received.

Two Physicians usually reside here, during the summer season.

Here is a Boarding-school for young Ladies, kept in a very decent, reputable *Schools*. manner; and another, where young Gentlemen are taught Arithmetick, Mathematicks, &c. so that Gentlemen may now bring down their children for the benefit of the sea, without losing time in their education.

As *Margate* is only a large village,
 Shops. you cannot expect that it should be so
 regularly supplied with shops, as a
 market-town; not but that there are several good
 ones, and many very reputable Tradesmen. This
 deficiency is, in a great measure, supplied by the
 numerous articles to be found in most of them,
 and by their ready and quick communication with
London by the Hoys.

Was it not for the assistance of these
 Hoys. vessels, it would be almost impossible
 for *Margate*, and the country round it,
 to furnish entertainment for the vast numbers of
 people who resort to it. They are sloops of eighty
 or an hundred tons burden. There are four of
 them, two of which sail in alternate weeks. Their
 station in the River is at *Wool-Key*, near the
 Custom-house. They usually leave *Margate* on
Friday or *Saturday*, and *London* on *Wednesday* or
Thursday. Passengers, of whom there are often
 sixty or seventy, pay only 2s. 6d. and the freight
 of baggage is inconsiderable. They sometimes
 make the passage in eight hours, and at others in
 two or three days, just as winds and tides happen
 to be for, or against them. The best wind down
 is W. N. W. the best up E. S. E. The Hoy,
 like the Grave, confounds all distinctions: High
 and Low, Rich and Poor, Sick and Sound, are
 here indiscriminately blended together. It can
 therefore be no wonder, if the humours of such
 a motley crew, of all ages, tempers, and disposi-
 tions, should, now and then, strike out such
 scenes, as must beggar every description but the
 pencil of *Hogarth*. Upon the whole, the passage
 is cheap, and in fine weather extremely pleasant
 and agreeable; but I would not recommend it too
 strongly to Ladies of great delicacy. To take
 away all apprehensions of danger in the voyage, it
 may

may be sufficient to say, that it is now more than 130 years since a *Margate* Hoy was lost. The Masters are very careful, decent men, and allow of no impropriety of behaviour, which they can possibly prevent. They transact incredible business.

A Post comes in from and returns to *London*, almost every day, during the season, the additional expence of which is defrayed by a subscription among the company. Post.

A Coach, or Post-Chaises, and often both, run every day, to meet the Machines which come into *Canterbury* from *London*, and return with passengers to *Margate* the same evening. Land Carriages.

The Assembly-Room is a part of the New-Inn; it stands on the *Parade*, and commands a fine view of the Harbour and Roads. This prospect is exceedingly pleasant, especially when it happens that a large fleet is lying there, waiting for spring-tides to carry them up the River. This room, without any pretensions to magnificence, is perfectly neat and commodious, being seventy feet in length, and twenty in breadth, with a gallery for Music. Amusements.
Assembly-Room. Publick breakfastings have not been usual, probably, because they would interfere too much with the hours of Bathing. Eighteen or twenty couple dance very conveniently. On Card Assemblies there are generally eight or ten tables; and at other times, seldom less than four or five. There are two Card Rooms adjoining, but they are seldom used as such, except on the nights of Dancing Assemblies. Those who have no particular engagements often drink tea here, in the afternoon, and either spend the remainder of the evening at cards, or ride, walk, or go to the Play, as their inclinations lead them. A good harmony prevails, for the most part, among the company, and

I have never seen a public place, where people are less on form, or more free from any disagreeable restraints. You receive inclosed the Subscriptions, Rules, &c. The number of Subscribers, last year, amounted to 429.

We have a Play-house, where a Play-House. Company of Comedians from *Canterbury* perform three times in the week.

If you expect to see great elegance in the house, scenes, and decorations, or any extraordinary degree of theatrical merit in the Actors, you may be disappointed. Nevertheless they meet with encouragement, which they do their utmost endeavours to deserve. It is usual to walk for some time after Bathing. The places most frequented for this purpose are the Parade, the Fort, and the Rope Walk. When the tide is ebbd, many persons go on the sands, to collect pebbles, shells, sea-weeds, &c. which, altho' of no great value, are esteemed as matters of curiosity by those to whom such objects have not been familiar. Some of these weeds, when spread on writing-paper, extended with a needle, and pressed down, form an infinite variety of landscapes, in the most beautiful colours. Many of them are to be met with in and about *Margate*; but the most beautiful collection I have ever seen, of this kind, was executed by a very ingenious young lady who lives in the place.

Having mentioned walking on the sands as an amusement, it may be proper to give you some little account of them. They extend, for some miles, along the shore, quite smooth and dry, at low water, and may be passed with safety six hours in the day. The ocean on the one hand, and the caverns and grottos every where worn in the high chalky cliff, on the other, form together, a scene most beautifully romantic. To prevent being over-

vertaken by the tide, for want of knowing the time of its return, you will do well to carry with you one of *Lyon's Tables*, which are calculated with all possible exactness for that purpose; they are printed on a card, and may be understood in a moment.

In fine weather, many parties put off to sea, for the diversion of fishing, or to go on board the ships, which lie at anchor in the Roads.

We have several other ingenious contrivances to prevent time from hanging too heavy on our hands, but as they differ very little from those which are in use at most publick places, it would be needless to make any particular mention of them.

Before I quit *Margate*, I will give you a short account of such places in its parish, as are taken notice of by strangers.

Nash Court was formerly a Gentleman's Seat, but now much gone to decay. *Nash-Court.* Its situation is pleasant; having more trees about it than are usually found here. Many resort hither for tea-drinking, or an evening walk. It appears by the date, 1108, cut on a sand stone in the wall of *Nash Court* Mansion House, that it is very antient. It has been, at several periods of time, in the possession of the *Garwintons, Hants, Isaacks, Lincolnes, Manhoods, Claybrooks, Norwoods, Turners, &c.*

Draper's is an endowed Hospital, with a Meeting-House for Quakers. *Draper's.*

This Hospital was built A. D. 1709.

The author of this benefaction was one *Michael Yoakley*, born in *St. John's* in this island, who settled this gift by his will, dated *October 30, 1707*. Over the middle doors in each front the founder directed the following inscription to be cut, to which he refers in his will, as containing the conditions and qualifications of the poor persons to

be admitted into this Almhouse, viz.

In much weakness the God of might did bless
 With increase of store,
 Not to maintain pride, nor idleness,
 But to relieve the poor.

Such industrious poor as truly fear the Lord,

Of { ^{meek,}
 humble, and } according to his word.
 quiet spirit,

M. r.

Glory to God alone.

The gardens are pleasant, and are frequented
 for the same purposes as *Nash Court*.

Dandelion is the ruin of a fine old
Dandelion. Mansion-house, which belonged to the
 family of *Petit*; little of it now re-
 mains, but a curious gateway. This gateway is
 built of bricks and flints, in rows, with loop-
 holes and battlements at top. Over the main gate
 are the arms of *Daundelyonn*, viz. Sable, three
 lyons rampant, between two bars dancette, argent.
 On the right hand of this gate is a smaller one for
 common use. Under the right side of it, as you
 go out of the gate from the place, in the year
 1703, was found a room large enough to hold eight
 or ten men, in which were a great many pieces of
 lacrymatory urns of earth and glass. Under the
 other side of it is a well prison. This seat for-
 merly belonged to the *Daundelyonns*, but about the
 beginning of *Edward IV.* it went by a daughter
 and heir to the *Petits* of *Shalmesford*, near *Char-*
tham.

Little Nash is only remarkable for a
Little-Nash. bone (the only one now remaining)
 of that most enormous sea monster;
 which was thrown ashore at a place, since called
Fish-Nefs *, near *Broad-Stairs*, July 9, 1574.

* By the word *Nefs* is every where to be understood, a small
 point of land, projecting into the sea.

This

This monster died the next day, for want of water, before which time his roaring was heard above a mile. His length was twenty-two yards, his nether jaw opened twelve feet ; one of his eyes was more than a cart and six horses could draw ; a man stood upright in the place whence his eye was taken ; the thickness from his back to the top of his belly (which lay upwards) was fourteen feet ; his tail of the same breadth ; the distance between his eyes twelve feet ; three men stood upright in his mouth ; some of his ribs were sixteen feet long ; his tongue fifteen feet long ; his liver was two cart-loads ; and a man might creep into his nostrils. This is the substance of the accounts of this Monster, given by *Kilburn* and *Lewis*, which, though well attested, have generally been thought fabulous. This bone is greatly impaired in size, by having been exposed to the weather, for almost 200 years.

There are few persons who have carriages, or horses, but do every day, when the weather will permit, take an airing over some part of the island. As I know you are fond of riding, I am about to give you directions for a morning's cruize along the coast. It is exceedingly pleasant, and the air of the *North-Foreland* is so fresh, that you will hardly complain of the want of appetite when you return. - Going out of town, the lower way, you will keep to the left, thro' *Northdown* to *King's-gate* ; or, if it be tide of ebb, you may pass the sands to *Kemp-Stairs*, which lie very near it. You will observe, that what are called here *Gates*, or *Stairs*, are no other than slope-waggon-ways, which are cut through the high perpendicular cliff to the level of the water's edge. Through these are drawn up sea-weed, for manure of the land, flint, gravel, chalk, pebbles, and other articles of the like nature.

King's-

King's-gate is in *St. Peter's Parish*,
King's-Gate. situate on a small but beautiful bay.

Here are two pretty houses, one of which has been lately hired by a person of great distinction. It was formerly called *Bartholomew's-Gate*, but received its present name, by order of *King Charles* the second, who landed here.

Near to this place, are those venerable monuments of antiquity, the *Hacken Downe*. banks of *Hacken-Downe*, or field of *Battle-Axes*. There are two *Tumuli*, or *Barrowes*, of earth, the tombs of some of the chief officers, killed in a bloody battle, fought on this spot, between the *Saxon-English*, and the *Danes*, in the reign of *King Ethelwolf*, in the year 853. One of these banks was opened by *Mr. Thomas Reed*, occupier of the lands, on the 23d of *May*, 1743, in the presence of many hundred people. In it were found several graves, cut out of the solid chalk, and covered with stones, which contained bones perfectly sound, together with some urns, in which were ashes and charcoal: These crumbled to dust as soon as they were exposed to the air. I conjecture that these monuments belonged only to the chief officers, from the ceremony of the urns, the small number of bodies found, and the circumspection which appeared to have been used in their interment.

The best historians of those times inform us, that the battle was fought so near the sea, that vast numbers were pushed over the cliff during the action; and it is highly probable, that most of the slain, on both sides, were thrown over afterwards, as no other remains of bodies have been ever found near the place.

Still keeping along the coast, the
Light-House. next place you will think worth a remark is the *Light-house*, which is a strong

strong octagon building of flint, on an eminence near the cliff, on the point of the *North-Foreland*; a fire of coals is kept blazing all night on the top of it, for the direction of Mariners. As many parties resort hither for dining, tea, &c. two booths are built for their reception, and attendance is given by the Light-keeper.

Not far from hence is *Broad Stairs*, a small Sea-Port, remarkable for fine lobsters. Two whales, of about sixty feet in length, and forty feet in circumference, were thrown a-shore here on the 2d of *February*, 1762, but no care has been taken to preserve their remains. Ten or twelve ships go annually from this place to the *Iceland* Cod Fishery, which, in some seasons, is a very lucrative employment. A considerable trade is carried on, of the oil drawn from the livers of the fish, which are brought home in casks for that purpose. The ruins of an old gate, formerly fortified by a portcullis, to prevent the inroads of privateers, still remain, as does a part of an ancient Popish Chapel (now a dwelling-house) dedicated to our *Lady of Pity*. This was once held in so great veneration, that ships, as they passed round the *Foreland*, always lowered their topsails to her image, which stood at the east end of it. A very pleasant room has lately been built here, in an house of good accommodation, facing the harbour, for the entertainment of strangers who are fond of sea prospects.

Opposite to this place *, at the distance of somewhat more than two leagues from the shore, lie the *Goodwin Sands*, which extend almost as far as *Dover*, and are visible at low-water. They are of so voracious and ingurgitating a property, that ships which strike on them, very rarely escape, being usually entirely swallowed up and lost in a

* *Broad Stairs*.

few tides. Misfortunes of this kind happen so frequently, that they become a good revenue to the fishermen who live along the coast, who seldom fail to improve them to the best advantage; this, however, must be owned, in justice to them, that whenever there is a bare possibility of preserving the ship-wrecked crew, they act in contempt of danger, and often save the lives of others at the imminent hazard of their own.

The old tradition concerning these Sands is as follows:

King *Edward* the Confessor married a daughter of *Goodwin* Earl of *Kent*, by which means the Earl and his five sons engrossed the chief places of honour and profit in the realm. They behaved with such insolence to the nobility, and excited such tyranny and extortion towards the subjects, that they became the objects of general detestation, and were at length banished. (So far may be true.) The common people not only loaded them with all kinds of abuse, while they lived, but (as the custom of the times was) invented stories to make their memories hateful to posterity; one of which was, that by a judgment from Heaven, the Earl's possessions in *Kent* suddenly sunk into the sea, and founded those Sands of which we are now speaking. This idle legend was handed down in writing, by the Monks and Friars, to latter times, and has since been adopted by writers, who ought to have known better. For in the Survey of *William the Conqueror*, called *Dooms-day-book*, that most famous and authentick Record of all the lands in *England*, where *Kent*, with its several appendages, to whomsoever belonging, as the Isles of *Thanet*, *Sheapy*, *Greane*, &c. are most minutely and exactly described, no notice is taken of such a place, nor is mention made of it in any ancient Repertory, or Terrier, which deserves any degree of credit.

dit. The truth undoubtedly is, that in the beginning of the reign of *Henry I*, about the year 1100, a terrible inundation happened, which drowned a great part of *Flanders* and the *Low Countries*. The waters being thus drawn off, and diverted into another channel, the perpendicular depth in the adjacent sea must of necessity be lessened, so that those sands which might, before, be safely passed over, at all times, by ships of any burthen, were now at high water little more than covered. What seems to confirm this opinion, is, that from the same cause, the River *Wantsum*, which was before a large navigable river, surrounding the Island, became only an insignificant stream; and the harbour of *Sandwich*, (formerly of great note,) has been so far choaked up with sands, as to be of little use. The word *Goodwin* is, in all probability, nothing more than a corruption of the *British* word *Gwdyn*, signifying *soft* and *spongy*, which is the exact character of these sands, and might be applied, with great propriety, to distinguish them from many others which lie very near, and are all more hard, gravelly, or rocky. Observe that, in the *British* language, *W* is always sounded as a vowel.

Still going on, with a full view of the *Cliffs of Calais* on your left, you *Ramsgate*. will pass thro' *Dumpton* to *Ramsgate*, a very neat sea-port town, with many good houses, but no great trade. The new Pier, now building there, attracts the admiration of all strangers, being the finest of its kind in *England*; or perhaps in the world. It is built chiefly of white *Purbeck* stone, and extends itself into the ocean near eight hundred feet, before it forms an angle. Its breadth at top is twenty-six feet, including a strong parapet, which runs all along the outside of it. Its depth admits of a gradual increase from eighteen
to

to thirty-six feet. The front, which faces to the south, is, or (to speak more properly) will be, of a polygonal figure. The angles, of which there will be five on a side, of one hundred and sixty feet each, or nearly so, with octagons at the ends of sixty-feet, joined to the works already carried on in straight lines, will complete the whole design, leaving an entrance of two hundred feet into a noble and capacious harbour. This is intended as a place of refuge for ships to flee to in hard gales of wind from S. E. to E. N. E. when they are exposed to the utmost danger in the *Downs*. I send you inclosed an accurate drawing of this most magnificent and beautiful structure, which I was favoured with by a very ingenious Architect, who resides on the spot.

At a small distance from hence, the *San Genaro*, a fine new *Spanish* man of war, of 64 guns, built entirely of cedar and mahogany, taken at the *Havannah*, was wrecked on the second day of *March*, 1763, upon a ledge of rocks called the *White Dyke*. Her cargo was very rich, being valued at upwards of 70,000*l*. Had the harbour of *Ramsgate* been then compleat, this most valuable prize had been, in all probability, preserved, at least from utter destruction. But parting from all her anchors, in a storm in the *Downs*, and having no place of security to flee to, her loss became inevitable.

At *Manston*, in this parish, is a very large cavern, cut out of the chalk, and supported by pillars of the same. It being esteemed curious, many strangers think it worth a visit.

You will probably return through the village of *St. Peter's*, where the only thing which deserves your notice, is a very neat and beautiful Church. The summit of its tower commands as delightful and extensive a prospect, by sea and land, as the imagination

St. Peter's
Church and
Tower.

imagination can form. This tower is a sea-mark ; in it were anciently five bells, but they were, above thirty years ago, cast into six, the great bell being made two. In the parish of *St. Peter's*, it is reckoned, is the highest ground in the island, called *Sowel-Hill*.

I think I have now mentioned every thing worth your notice on this side the island, and will give you such a short account of the other part of it, as may be a sufficient direction to you, to find out whatever else may merit your attention.

Going out at the upper end of the town, and keeping the coast on your right hand, you will pass through *Galenge* (a very pleasant village) over a fine fertile country, to *Birchington*.

You will be tempted to spend an hour *Birchington*. or two here, which you may do very agreeably. In the north chancel of this church are many fine monuments of the families of *Quekes* and *Crispe* ; to the latter of which the estate devolved from the former, about the year 1500. The Mansion-house still bears the name of *Quekes*, its former proprietors.

Henry Crispe, who was Sheriff of *Kent*, and was knighted, had such an influence over the inhabitants of this island, that he was stiled *Regulus Insulæ Thaneti*, that is, the little King of *Thanet*. On the tower of the church is placed a spire, covered with shingles, which is of great use to ships at sea to steer by, in their way from the *Thames* to the *North Foreland*. At *Quekes*, King *William* the third used to reside, while he waited for winds to carry him to *Holland*. His room, and the crimson damask bed in which he lay, are still shewn. His guards encamped in an adjoining enclosure. This venerable Mansion still boasts many remains of the good old *English* hospitality, but, like most others of the same rank in its neighbourhood, is

now crumbling very fast to ruin, and is sunk into the dwelling of a tenant.

From this house *Henry Crispe*, Esq; otherwise called *Bon Jour Crispe*, a man of great property, and who had been High-Sheriff of the County, was surprized in the night, and carried prisoner to *Frante*, by the crew of a privateer. I have not been able, by the most diligent enquiry, to fix the date of this transaction, although the truth of it is unquestionable. The only certain intelligence I can meet with is, that the alienation of so considerable a part of the estate, as became necessary to pay his ransom, was a blow which the family never after recovered. He died in the year 1663. The terror occasioned by this event, is assigned as a reason why the island was forsaken by its ancient gentry. Whether it was the only reason, is a question which I will not pretend to determine.

A skeleton of one of the Whales thrown ashore here in *February* 1762, is to be seen; tolerably perfect. The bone of the head, on the lowest estimation, weighed upwards of two tons.

Near the Road from *Margate* to *Cleve*. *Mynstre*, is a very handsome new built house, belonging to *Robert Fuller*, Esq. It commands a fine view of the ocean, and the adjacent country.

At a little distance from hence is *Mount-Pleasant*. *Mount-Pleasant*, a small Public-house, built on an eminence, and much admired for its beautiful prospect. About a mile South from hence is *Mynstre*, situated in a very low, marshy bottom. Here are still some few remains of the ancient monastery of *St. Mildred*. The Parish Church, which was built on the remains of the Abbey, was formerly the Mother Church of the Island, the present vicarages having been only chapelries under it; but they have, for
some

some centuries past, entirely shaken off their dependency. I do not recollect any thing remarkable in the adjoining parish of *Monckton*.

The village of *St. Nicholas* is but a few miles distant from hence, where are some good houses, inhabited by persons of considerable property. *St. Nicholas.*

Farther on the coast, but just beyond the Island, stands *Reculver*. This place formerly made a considerable figure. Here was a Palace of the Kings of *Kent*, and a rich Abbey; but there are scarce the least remains of either. It is now only a very small village. In the Parish Church, within the last century, were some monuments of great antiquity, mentioned by Mr. *Sommers*, but they are, at this time, all lost, or destroyed. *Ethelbert*, the first King of *Kent*, is said to have been buried here, in the year 616. It is now remarkable only for two beautiful spires, called *The Sisters*, which form a very useful sea-mark. *Reculver* can boast of as many antiquities as any place in *Kent*; *Severus*, Emperor of *Rome*, about A. D. 205, built here a Castle, which he fortified against the *Britons*; and afterwards *Ethelbert*, the first Christian King of *Kent*, built here a Palace, on the spot of which a Monastery was afterwards erected. The spot whereon the Monastery and palace stood, now occupied by the Church, is not without reason supposed to be the place in which the *Roman* station was fixed, it being a rising ground, which makes it the more probable, as it has been very justly and truly observed, that all the *Roman* colonies, towns, stations, or forts were generally set upon hills. What the state and condition of this place was in the *Conqueror's* time, may be understood by these words in *Domesday Book*, where it is placed among the manors of the Archbishop. *Raculf est manerium*

rium Archiepiscopi, &c. Raculf is a manor of the Archbishop's, and was valued in King Edward's time at eight shillings or plough-lands, and rented at fifty two pounds five shillings, and three minutes or pence.

How fine a building the old Church was, we may learn from *Leland's Perambulation*, who thus describes it, as it then stood, tho' at that time past its splendor. "The Abbey Church hath
 " two goodly spires and steeples. In the choir is
 " a fair column, on which are curiously wrought
 " and painted the images of our Saviour *Christ*
 " and his Apostles *St. Peter, St. Paul, St. John,*
 " and *St. James.* *Christ* is represented speaking,
 " *I am Alpha and Omega: Peter* says, *Thou art*
 " *Christ, the Son of the living God;* but the words
 " of the other three are quite obliterated. Higher
 " is the Passion of *Christ* pourtrayed, *Christ* hang-
 " ing on the Cross, and the Apostles and women
 " attending. In the Church is an ancient book
 " of the Gospels, in large Roman letters, &c.
 " on the borders of it a chrystal stone thus in-
 " scribed, *CLAVDIA ATEPICCUS.* On the
 " North side of the Church is the figure of a Bi-
 " shop painted under an arch. The old walls
 " shew the extent of the whole Monastery. Out
 " of the Church-yard is a neglected Chapel, which
 " is thought to have been once a Parish Church."
 Thus far *Leland*; but he seems to have omitted the famous antient monument of *Ethelbert*, the thirteenth King of *Kent*, placed at the upper end of the South isle, mounting up with two spires. We are to observe, however, that there are scarce any of these curious antiquities remaining.

I must not fail telling you, that on
 Fine prospect the Downs, on the North part of the
 near *Mynstre.* Parish of *Mynstre*, where the old
 and present windmills were placed, is a prospect
 which

which perhaps is hardly exceeded in any part of the kingdom. There we see not only all this little Island, and the several Churches in it, except one; but we have a view at a distance of the two spires of *Reculver*, the Isle of *Shepey*, the *Nore*, or mouth of the river *Thames*, the coast of *Essex*, the *Swale*, and *British Channel*, the cliffs of *Calais*, or the kingdom of *France*, the *Downs* and town of *Deal*, the bay and town of *Sandwich*, the fine champain country of *East-Kent*; the spires of *Wodnesburg* and *Ash*, the ruins of the ancient Castle of *Richborough*, the beautiful levels of *Mynstre*, *Ash*, &c. with the River *Stoure* running betwixt them; the fine and stately Tower of the Cathedral of *Christ-Church, Canterbury*, and a compass of hills of more than a hundred miles in extent, that terminate the sight.

In the marshes, on the South side of this parish, was found, A. D. 1723, an antique gold ring. On the place of the seal, which seemed to represent an open book, was engraved on one side, an angel, who seemed to be kneeling, and on the other, a woman standing with a Glory round her head, as Saints are described. On the woman's side was engraven, in old *English* characters, *Hone*; on the Angel's, another word in the same letter, not easily decyphered or understood. It probably belonged to the Abbot, or some of the Monks here, and the engraved figures of the Angel, &c. were perhaps intended to represent the Salutation of the Virgin *Mary*, or St. *Mildred*.

In all the parishes of this Island were formerly cast up and kept in repair, Butts, for the practice and exercise of Archery, or shooting in the long Bow, which was a reigning diversion here; accordingly, remains of these Butts still continue in some places here.

Anciently a good part of this island was woodland, which is now almost all grubbed up, and converted into sowing-land. Several of the little villages hereabouts still preserve the memory of these woods, viz. *West-Wood*, *North-Wood*, *South-Wood*, *Colyfs-Wood*, or *Villa-Wood*, corruptly pronounced by the inhabitants *Willow-Wood*; which last seems to have been all a wood except a few cottages; part of this wood was grubbed about fifty years ago: besides these woods, were *Frisket-Wood* near *Hoo*, and a wood called *Bobdale*, in *St. Nicholas*, and *Manston-Wood*, a copse of about five acres, which survived the rest. Into the sewoods, probably, the inhabitants generally retired, and secured themselves and families, when the *Danish* pirates used to infest this island. A mark of this seems still remaining, at a place called *Chefmund*, (which perhaps was part of that large wood about the middle of the Island, which still bears that name) where there are a sort of intrenchments cast up, in which perhaps the poor distressed people sheltered themselves, as they are too small for any army to encamp in. Several caves under ground have been discovered elsewhere in this island, which seems to have been made by the inhabitants to hide themselves in from the enemy. The timber growing here is generally elm, which in the lower part of the island, about *Mynstre* and *Monckton*, grows to a good height and bigness if let alone; but it is not so thriving where the trees stand within the reach of the sea winds, and very near the chalk. Plantations of oak are very unthriving, which shews that either the soil or situation is unfavourable to them.

About 130 years ago, a Farmer of *Mynstre* ordering his servants to go to plough on a holiday, they, out of revenge, were resolved to aim at breaking their plough, and for that reason set it to bite

bite deeper than ordinary into the ground; they had not gone far before they struck against a pot, which the share brought up, full of *Roman* coins of the lesser and larger silver. These the country people called *Baldpates*, and some of them were found many years afterwards, upon a shower of rain falling; these were supposed to be dropped by those who first discovered them. Another parcel of these coins was found not far off the other place, viz. near where the mill now stands, the other having been taken up near where the mill formerly stood, or what is called King *William's* Mount. Of these coins Mr. *Lewis* was in possession of one of the lesser silver; it had the face of *L. Aurelius Verus* on it, with short curled hair and a curled beard, the legend, IMP. L. AVREL. VERVS. AVC. On the reverse a woman habited in a stole, or long robe, with a globe, or ball, in her right hand, and a *cornucopia* in her left, the legend PROV. DEOR. T. P. II. COS. II.

Near *Broad-stairs* have been often found a great many brass coins, &c. of the *Roman* Emperors, particularly when there has been a fall of the adjoining cliff occasioned by much rain or frost, but the greatest part of them were generally so worn and defaced, that the inscriptions were not legible.

In the account I gave you of *Hacken-downs* Banks, p. 21. I forgot to observe, that it is not improbable that this battle referred to in the tradition, was that fought by Earl *Alchere* and Duke *Weda*, with the *Danes*, A. D. 853, wherein the *Danes* were utterly routed, and great numbers of them killed. *Asserius Menevensis* says, this battle was fought so near the sea, that a great many of both sides were pushed into it, and drowned.

At a small distance from *Margate*, is a little village called *Mutterer*, betwixt which place and the sea

sea were found, A. D. 1724, by *William Castle*, who occupied a small farm there, as he was digging a sea-gate, to fetch up waure from his land, twenty-seven such instruments as are generally called *Celtes*, lying all together, about two feet under ground, so that it is somewhat strange they were not before discovered. They were of mixed brass, or what is called bell or pot-metal, of several sizes, and somewhat different shapes, but both sides alike. The largest were seven inches and a quarter long, and two inches and three quarters broad at the bottom. The lesser ones were five inches in length, and two inches and a half in breadth at the bottom. Two of them had rings on one side, about the middle, which is the thickest or deepest part. Various have been the conjectures of the learned relative to the use of these kinds of instruments; some have thought them chizels to cut or hew stone; others *securis's*, or axes, and that the ancients had a method of tempering brass to make it at least as hard as iron. What they really were, is not however yet absolutely determined.

The coast on the North side of *Margate* is rendered less agreeable, by the noisome smell of burning of kelp, which is thus performed. The seaweed is gathered fresh from the rocks and dried, then burnt, in large holes, on the top of the cliff. By being kept stirred, it first becomes fluid, like melted lead, and is by degrees calcined into a substance much like a cinder, which is of great use among Potters, Glass-workers, &c.

I think your enquiries are all answered now, except the last, which respects a more extensive tour along the coast. It is generally made by the ruins of *Richborough Castle*, *Sandwich*, and *Sandown Castle*, and thro' *Deal*, by *Walmer Castle* to *Dover*; from thence it is not unusual to go to

Center.

Canterbury, and round that way back again to *Margate*. A few words on these places cannot, I think, be disagreeable to you ; it will serve as an amusement in your intended toure, and give you an opportunity of making more useful and entertaining remarks, than you would perhaps do, if wholly unprovided with such a companion. It is of no small advantage to form some kind of idea of a place before we see it ; our expectation is raised, and we arrive better prepared to be pleased with whatever may occur worthy of our observation. But to detain you no longer ; after setting out on our little journey, the first place of consequence we come to is *Richborough Castle* in ruins.

Richborough was a famous city, and port, in the time of the *Romans*, who *Richborough* called it *Rutupiæ*. This city was so stretched out along the side of a hill, with a Castle on the higher ground, that it overlooked the ocean, which then came up to it, tho' now, on account of the sands cast up in the haven, the sea comes not within above a mile of it. The *Romans* frequently landed their forces here. This city flourished some time under the *Saxon* Government ; but the *Danes*, in their ravages, destroyed both the city and castle, so that it is now become a corn field ; wherein yet, when the corn is grown up, may be observed the traces of the foundations, which the people thereabout call *St. Augustine's Cross*. There are some remains of the old walls of a castle. The ruins, in *Dr. Battley's* time, who measured them, were in figure quadrilateral ; about 150 paces in length, and 105 broad ; and *Dr. Harris*, in his history of *Kent*, describes the walls to be twelve feet thick, their height not to be determined, as being no where entire. They are composed of chalk stones, round pebbles, and *Roman* bricks, thus ; at every three feet

feet and a half distance one from the other, are double rows of *Roman* bricks ; the whole is a heap of ruins, overgrown with ivy. Some have mistakenly imagined it was at *Richborough* that King *Ethelbert* had a palace, not distinguishing that *Reculver* was anciently reckoned one of the *Ritupia*, especially during the time of the late Empire.

Richborough Castle appears to have had two gates ; a large one in the middle of the Western wall, and a lesser in the Northern : This gate having within a century had the figure of a woman's head over it in stone, which was imagined by some to be that of Queen *Bertha*, was called the *Maiden Gate*.

Very considerable numbers, and a great variety of *Roman* coins, have been found here, as well as other antiquities. Two very fair gold medals, of *Arcadius* and *Honorius*, were, not a great many years ago, in the hands of Mr. *Lovel*, Minister of *Wodensburg*. Some old manuscripts say, this Castle was begun by *Vespasian*, and afterwards finished by *Severus*.

Richborough has, by *Leland* and some others, been judged to have been once part of *Thanet* ; but Dr. *Batteley*, with greater probability, supposes it to have been an island itself. The reasons for which opinion are these : That the vallies of *Gosshall* and *Fleet* on the west, and all the other low lands quite round the hill, on which the Castle stood, seem to be full as low as those thro' which the river now runs ; and it appears to be pretty certain, that either the sea, or some river running into it, did once surround this hill ; because, as Dr. *Plott* observes, whenever they scour the ditches of these vallies, they always find great numbers of cockle and perriwinkle shells at the bottom, which could hardly come there any other way ; for they are not seemingly of the same nature

ture as those that are frequently dug up within land, and are called fossil shells.

The next place of note we come to, after leaving the ruins of *Richborough-Castle*, is *Sandwich*, probably called so, as being a sandy town. In the *Saxon* times its name was *Lundenwic*, or the port of *London*, because it was the place where such as were bound from *France* to *London*, landed at. It is separated only by a small channel from the isle of *Thanet*. It had formerly four Churches, viz. *St. James's*, which is now demolished. In this Church there was always an Hermit; and the last of them, in King *Henry the VIII's* reign, was one *John Steward*, who was made Minister of *St. Mary's*. This Church was not quite demolished in *Edward the VIth's* reign. The other Churches are, *St. Clement's*, *St. Peter's*, and *St. Mary's*. *Sandwich* was in antient times a place of great trade, surrounded with strong walls. In *Edward the IVth's* reign, this town had ninety-five ships belonging to it, and above fifteen hundred sailors, and yielded the crown near 17,000*l.* per ann. in its customs, an immense sum in those days. King *Edward the Confessor* resided here a great while. Many great armaments were fitted out here, and some battles fought in its neighbourhood; but *Sandwich-Haven* was not then what it now is; on the contrary, it was reckoned one of the best in *England*. The old mouth of the *Haven* of *Sandwich* lies, it is said, near two miles E. S. E. of the present, and about two miles and a half from *Sandown Castle*; *Camden* and *Plott* say it was spoiled by the sinking of the great ship of *Paul the IVth*. Near this place *Cæsar* probably landed at both his descents upon *Britain*, it being more likely than *Deal*, and better answers the description he gives of the place.

Some

Some of the wall still remains on the North and West sides, and a rampart and ditch on the others. It suffered much in the wars with the *Danes*, &c. being the place where King *Canute*, in 1015, inhumanly slit the noses, and cut off the hands, of such *English* as were given to *Swain* his father for hostages. In 1217 it was burnt by the *French*. It is well furnished with gardens and water; from *Sandwich* the *London* markets are supplied with the largest and sweetest carrots, and the Seedsmen with most of their seeds; the soil being sandy, light, fresh, and pretty low, is very proper for the purpose, and they are not subject to be blighted. In 1457 the *French* again plundered and burnt this town, landing 1500 men, and killing the Mayor and other Officers. The *Wool-staple* was removed hither from *Queenborough*, in *Richard* the II^d's reign; and some *Walloons* and *Dutch*, flying from persecution in that of Queen *Elizabeth*, set up a cloth manufacture. The chief trade now is in shipping and malting. Before the gates are two *Roman Tumuli*; and on the South side by the shore are six large broad *Celtic Tumuli*, at equal distances.

Sandwich is a Corporation established by charter. It is one of the *Cinque Ports*, and had *Fordwich*, *Sarre*, *Ramsgate*, *Deal*, *Walmer*, and *Stonor* annexed to it, and these together were to find five ships.

In our way to *Deal* we pass by *Sandown-Castle*, which was built, together with *Deal* and *Walmer-Castle*, by King *Henry* the VIIIth, to defend the coast when he apprehended an invasion, after he had thrown off the Pope's yoke, and provoked the Emperor by the divorce of Queen *Catharine*.

It consists of four lunets of very thick stone arched work, with many port holes for great guns.

In

In the middle is a great round tower, with a cistern on the top of it, and underneath an arched cavern, bomb-proof. The whole is encompassed by a fossée, over which is a draw-bridge.

Deal is now a place of great resort, particularly in war-time, owing to the number of ships which then generally lie in the *Downs*. It has a Castle, built by *Henry* the VIIIth. It consists as it were of two towns, the upper and more ancient, which lies about a mile from the sea. In this stands the old Church, called *St. Leonard's*, in which there is nothing remarkable, but a monumental brass plate against the wall, of *Thomas Bois*, of *Fredville*, of *Nonnington*, Esq; who attended King *Henry* the VIIIth, at the siege of *Boulogne*, and died in the year 1560. The lower town, which is much the largest, lies on the edge of the sea, and is, since the encrease of our foreign trade and Royal navy, much enlarged. It has a new Church erected in it, and has quite eclipsed *Sandwich*.

At this place, all the homeward and outward-bound ships that pass the *Channel*, stop, the first to dispatch their letters to notify their arrival, and to set passengers ashore, the latter to take in fresh provisions, and receive their last orders, and letters from their friends. Here *Perkin Warbeck*, counterfeiting the Duke of *York*, and heir to the crown, landed in the reign of *Henry* the VIIth. A ridge of cliffs runs seven miles along the coast from hence to *Dover*, which abounds with samphire.

In going from hence to *Dover* we pass by *Walmer-Castle*; this I have already mentioned to have been built by *Henry* the VIIIth; it serves for the defence of the coast.

Walmer Castle.

Dover was, without doubt, a port in the time of the *Romans*, and has continued so thro' the *Saxon*, *Danish*, and *Norman* ages unto this present. The town was once well walled from the place called *Mansfield-Corner* to *Peer-Gate*, from thence to *Upwall*, and so on to *Cow-Gate*, to *Biggin-Gate*, along *St. Mary's Church-yard* to the river. Some old manuscripts say, that it was walled by the Emperor *Severus*. The gates in the wall were ten in number: There were formerly twenty-one wards in *Dover*, each of which was to find a ship for forty days at their own charge, for the King's use. It is the chief of the Cinque Ports. It had seven Churches, but has now only two, *St. Mary's* and *St. James's*. On the pier of *Dover* King *Henry* the VIIIth expended 80,000*l.* making a bulwark, which from *Arcliff* ran far out into the sea to the Eastward; also in the reigns of *Henry* the VIIth and *Edward* the VIth great care was taken to make this harbour good, and keep it in repair. The pier was finished A. D. 1585, by Queen *Elizabeth's* care. It was Sir *John Thompson*, Clerk, Parson of *St. James's* in *Dover*, that made the draught, and proposed to King *Henry* the VIIIth the repairing the Harbour and making the pier, which was begun 1533, and was compiled of two rows of main posts, and great piles of twenty-five or twenty-six feet in length, which were let into holes hewn in the rocks, and some were shod with iron and driven down into the chalky ground; the posts and piles were fastened together with iron bands, bolts, &c. and the interstices filled with great chalk stones, beach, &c. but the bottom was all great rocks of stone, of twenty tons each, brought from *Folkstone* thither, on frames of timber supported by empty casks, &c. on the water, at a small expence; and by the contrivance of one

John

John Young, to whom the King granted a pension for his ingenuity. But the King's absence at *Bologne*, his sickness, death, and his son's nonage, put a stop to, and at last exposed to decay and ruin, this noble work. The pier was not finished by 350 feet so far as its foundation went, which was called the *Mole-Head*, and was made of rocks brought from a place called *Hark-Cliff*, or the *Castle-Key* and *Folkstone*. The Harbour has since, at different periods, been repaired and altered till it was brought to its present state. For the support of it there are certain droits, or customary duties on all goods, &c. exported or imported.

It will now be necessary to say something of the Castle, which is situated upon the Southern end of that long ridge of rocks or steep cliffs, which runs from *Deal* to that opening which forms *Dover* Harbour, and receives the little river into the sea. I shall not attempt to describe these cliffs to you ; it will be sufficient for me to recall to your remembrance *Shakespear's* beautiful lines on the subject, in his Tragedy of *King Lear* :

“ There is a Cliff, whose high and bending head
 “ Looks fearfully on the confined deep---
 “ How dizzy 'tis to cast one's eyes so low !
 “ The crows and choughs, that wing the midway air,
 “ Shew scarce so gross as beetles. Half way down
 “ Hangs one that gathers samphire : Dreadful trade !
 “ Methinks he seems no bigger than his head.
 “ The fishermen that walk upon the beach
 “ Appear like mice ; and yond tall anchoring bark
 “ Diminished to her cock * ; her cock, a buoy
 “ Almost too small for sight. The murmuring surge,
 “ That on th' unnumbered idle pebbles chafes,
 “ Cannot be heard so high. I'll look no more,
 “ Lest my brain turn, and the deficient sight
 “ Topple down headlong.”

* Cock-boat.

And in another place he saith,

- “ From the dread summit of this chalky bourn
 “ Look up : A height---the shrill gor’d lark so far
 “ Cannot be seen or heard.”

The Castle is said to contain thirty-five acres of land, six whereof were taken up by the old buildings. It lays claim to great antiquity. Several old writings, and a manuscript written by *William Darell*, Chaplain to Queen *Elizabeth*, now in the Herald’s Office Library, say it was built by *Julius Cæsar*. It might not perhaps be built by him, as he staid so short a time in *Britain*; yet it is not at all improbable that it was built by his orders. That it was built during the time of the *Romans* continuance here, is past a doubt, as there are such numbers of *Roman* bricks about it. The inhabitants used formerly to shew certain vessels of old wine and salt, kept in the Castle, which they affirmed to be the remainder of such provision as *Cæsar* brought in hither. And *Camden* was shewn here certain large arrows, which appeared to him to be such as the *Romans* used to shoot out of their engines, which resembled larger cross-bows. But *Cæsar*’s provision of wine and salt, and these *Roman* arrows, are no more to be seen. Mr. *Darell*’s manuscript, above-mentioned, says, there were formerly twenty-five towers in *Dover-Castle*; for a particular account of their names and situations, I refer you to Dr. *Harris*’s *History of Kent*. It is probable that none of the buildings now standing were built by the *Romans*; but we may very reasonably conclude, from the great quantities of *Roman* materials found here, that many parts of the Castle were built on *Roman* foundations, and out of the ruins of *Roman* buildings.

Dover-Castle has been always esteemed a fortress of great consequence, and was by the *Saxons* deemed the key to the kingdom, but it is too high to hurt any ship at sea, and by land could not stand a formal siege half a day. When *William the Conqueror* had an eye upon this kingdom, he made *Harold* swear to deliver him up this Castle, with the well, which is sixty fathom deep, said to be the work of *Julius Cæsar*. It is called by the name of Mr. *Watson's* Cellar, and is round, large, and lined to the bottom with free-stone. The water is drawn up by means of a wheel, and it is, upon the whole, a noble piece of antiquity. The remains of the Royal Palace, the Chapel, stables, and offices here, shew the whole to have been prodigious grand, though now all decayed, except the walls, which still hold very good. In Queen *Anne's* wars with *France*, 1500 prisoners were at one time confined in the Castle.

There is kept here a great curiosity, commonly called Queen *Elizabeth's* pocket-pistol; it is a brass cannon, supposed to be the longest in the world, being twenty-two feet, and was presented to that Princess by the States of *Utrecht*. It requires fifteen pounds of powder, and some say it will throw a ball seven miles. Here are two very old keys, and a brass trumpet like a horn, which they pretend has been kept here ever since *Julius Cæsar's* time; but it seems in fact to be the ensign of authority belonging to the old Lord Wardens of the *Cinque Ports*.

One part of the fortification is a circular work, in which stands an old church said to have been built by *Lucius*, the first Christian King in *Britain*, out of some of the *Roman* ruins; and indeed the middle tower of it shews plain remains of *Roman* work; it is in form of a cross, and the middle

tower is square ; but the stone windows are more modern.

The greatest curiosity is the *Roman Pharos*, or watch-tower, at the west end of it, wherein was a ring of bells, which Sir *George Rook* got removed to *Portsmouth*. On another rock, over against the Castle, and almost as high, are remains of another old watch-tower, called *Bredinston*, and by the vulgar *Devil's-Drop*, from the strength of the mortar : By *Darell*, and others, it is called *Ara Caesaris*. Here the Constable of the Castle is sworn, all the courts are kept, and most of the business relating to the Ports done. Below the Castle, under its steepest cliff, near the sea, is a strong fort, and another opposite to it, on the Western-side of the Harbour. A. D. 1580, April 6, an earthquake threw down a piece of the cliff, with part of the Castle standing on it next to the sea. *Dover Castle* has always been deemed worthy of a visit from travellers, being, past all doubt, a fortress of great antiquity, and formerly of as great consequence.

We must now set out for *Canterbury*. *Canterbury*, which is well worth a visit. It was called by the *Britons*, *Caer Kent*, i. e. the *City of Kent*, by way of eminence. It is seated on the *Stoure*, which runs thro' it with a swift current. In *Latin* it is called *Durovernam*. There can be no doubt of this City's being famous in the time of the *Romans*, not only from its name being mentioned in *Antoninus's Itinerary*, but from the many coins, and other antiquities, frequently dug up here. It seems now to stand like *London*, on raised ground ; for in digging for wells, vaults, and cellars, they have often met with old arches, some turned with *Roman* bricks, and foundations one upon another to a great depth, with piles of wood driven deep into the

the ground ; and even at the *Bullstake-Market*, tanners pits, and utensils belonging to that trade, or perhaps *Roman* cisterns, (to hold water) have been found, as have wells also, at ten or fifteen feet deep, having curbs of wood to them. Many *Roman* pavements have been met with in digging, some of fine *Mosaick* work.

That *Canterbury* was a city of note in the time of the *Romans*, is also sufficiently confirmed by the three *Roman* ways that go from it, as well as by the *Watling-Street*, which crosses it ; the remains of all these *Roman* ways are still visible. The walls of this city are of great antiquity, of which we cannot have better evidence than the *Roman* bricks which were frequently found in it ; as at *Riding-Gate*, the place where *Quening-Gate* once stood, and in the remains of the wall behind *St. Mildred's Church*. The whole compass of the walls of the city is 583 perches, 32,010 yards, or 96,030 feet. In the walls are twenty-one turrets, or watch-towers ; there are now but six gates and three posterns remaining. The town ditch was anciently 150 feet over. There was formerly a Royal Exchange here ; its site was in *All-Saints Parish*, and an Inn is built on the spot ; it was standing till *Edward* the III'd's time. This city had also a mint, or perhaps more than one. In King *John's* time the profit of the mint here exceeded that of *London*, as Mr. *Madox* shews, in his History of the Exchequer. The *Jews* had formerly a Synagogue, or school, at *Canterbury*, which seems to have been where now the stone parlour of the *King's-Head* Inn is, that being arched under, and an ascent to it with stone steps still remaining. The custom of paying tythe for houses in this city, is something peculiar, being ten pence in every Noble of the annual rent ; and payable quarterly ; in *St. Andrew's Parish* they pay

pay ten pence halfpenny. Anciently it was the custom for every house of ten shillings *per annum*. rent to offer a farthing ; of twenty shillings rent, one halfpenny ; and for forty shillings rent, a penny, on every Sunday and Holiday throughout the year. The Chief Magistrate of this city is, in some Charters, dated 780, stiled *Præfectus* ; in 956 he is called the *Portreeve* ; and in 1011, the time of the *Danish* massacre here, his title is *Præpositus*, and so he is called also in *Domesday-Survey*. The 18th of King *Henry* the III^d, that Prince, by his Charter, granted the town to the citizens in fee farm, and enfranchised them with the liberty of chusing two Bailiffs annually ; this continued till the 25th of *Henry* the VIth, when by a new Charter a Mayor became the title of the Chief Magistrate ; in this state it still continues. In this city it was that King *Vortiger* first entertained the *Saxons*, *Hengist* and *Horfa*. The Archbishop's Palace, that was formerly here, was given to St. *Austin* by King *Ethelbert* ; this was burnt by the *Danes* in 1011, and rebuilt by *Lanfranck*. In the late civil wars, after various alterations and improvements by succeeding Archbishops, it was pulled down, and has since been converted into tenements. The decay of this Palace, and the Archbishops residing at *Lambeth*, and especially the suppression of the Monasteries, have reduced this anciently great and superb city to a mean state. About the end of the year 1568, Duke *d'Alva*, persecuting the inhabitants of the *Low-Countries*, many of them fled over hither, and settled in this city, bringing with them many useful arts, particularly weaving silks, serges, bays, says, &c.

The Cathedral Church.

It is now high time to say something of the magnificent Cathedral Church, confessed by all to have been much

much the noblest in *Britain*. The common opinion is, that the first Church here was built when *Lucius* was King of this part of *Britain*, about the year 161, on the spot which the Cathedral now occupies. The Cathedral was built by King *Ethelbert*, Anno 596, at the request of *St. Austin*. When the *Danes* made such ravages in the kingdom, this Church, as well as many others, was suffered to run to decay; for when *Odo* was Archbishop, Anno 938, we read that its roof was in a dangerous state, the walls of uneven height, and the broken rafters ready to fall on the peoples heads; this old roof therefore *Odo* took down, mended, and raised the walls, and in about three years time covered it with lead, the first instance perhaps of such a kind of roof in *Britain*. In 1011, the *Danes*, when they took the City, rifled and burnt this Church; it lay in ruins till 1038, when *Egelnoth* the Archbishop was enabled, by *Cnute* the King, to repair it. In Archbishop *Stigand's* time soon afterwards it was again damaged by fire, and lay in miserable order till *Lanfranc* came to the See. In this old Church the Archbishop's pontifical chair was made of large stones set together in mortar, and placed at the West end, close to the wall. *Lanfranc* rebuilt it from the foundation. This was several times damaged by fire and repaired. The fine choir now standing was built An. 1184; the roof is of stone strengthened by a number of pillars; the *Monks* were enabled to defray the expence of it from the offerings that were made at *Becket's* tomb; the two wings of the great cross isle were, An. 1376, rebuilt from the foundation by Archbishop *Simon Sudbury*; three years afterwards he took down the ancient nave, or body of the Church, to rebuild it answerable to the choir, but being unhappily murdered in *Wat Tyler's* insurrection,

was

was prevented doing it ; it was therefore done by the *Monks*, assisted by the two next Archbishops, *Courtney* and *Arundel*, and still continues a strong and magnificent building. In the North corner of the West end of the Church is a high tower with four spires, or pinnacles, which being perhaps built by Archbishop *Arundel*, is still called *Arundel* steeple. At the other or South corner of the West end of the nave is that called *Dunstan's* steeple, from a bell in it dedicated to him, which is a later and more elegant structure ; and being begun by Archbishop *Chicheley*, from him hath been usually called *Oxford Tower*. It was finished by Prior *Goldstone*. This same Prior also built that place on the East side of the *Martyrdom*, now called the Dean's Chapel, over which is built the present library of the Church. This Prior also finished the rebuilding of the great tower in the middle of the Cathedral, called formerly *Angel* steeple. In this he was assisted by Archbishop *Morton*. This is as noble, lofty, and neat a tower as any Cathedral in *England* can boast, and is a great ornament to this magnificent Church ; it is very well built, and was supported within by two larger and four smaller arches of stone fitted into the pillars. Within this Cathedral in the times of Popery were no less than thirty-seven several altars. At the West end, under *Arundel* steeple, is the Archbishop's Consistory-court now held ; and near it is a fine font, the double gift of *Warner*, Bishop of *Rocheſter*, for another which he had erected being destroyed in the Civil-wars, after the Restoration he set up the present font, which is more curious and beautiful. The South cloister was built by order of Archbishop *Courtney*, as he appointed by his will. On the roof of all the cloisters are a great number of Coats
of

of Arms in stone, probably of the Benefactors to the Cathedral.

Here are some fine monuments, particularly one of *Henry IVth* and his Queen *Joan*, dated 1412; his first wife *Mary*, daughter of *Humphry de Bohun*, Earl of *Hereford*, &c. having been buried here before him, *An. 1394*. Here also was buried *Edward the Black Prince*, A. D. 1376, under a noble monument, with an epitaph in *French*. A third monument there is of *Margaret*, daughter of *Thomas Holland*, Earl of *Kent*, representing her as lying between her two husbands, *John* Earl of *Somerset*, and Marquis of *Dorset*, and *Thomas* Duke of *Clarence*, second son of King *Henry IVth*, killed at the battle of *Little Baugy* in *France*. They say also, that Queen *Ediva* a *Saxon*, was interred here. There are many other monuments of note, which it would take up too much time to particularize. In the Undercroft, which is under the choir, the *French Walloons* meet to celebrate divine worship.

Of *Canterbury Castle*, the ruins of which appear on the South side of The Castle. the city, it is not necessary to say much. It was built a little before the *Conquest*, with an intention perhaps to repel the invasion and depredations of the *Danes*. The passage towards this Castle was formerly by a bridge. In *Edward* the third's reign there was a prison kept in this Castle.

The two gates of *St. Augustine's Monastery* are remaining, and very stately. What has added most to the advantage of this City, is the Hop-ground all round it, to the amount of several thousand acres; so that till it was equalled by *Farnham*, it was reckoned the only great plantation of hops in the whole island. The City appears round, before one enters it; but it is an exact cross, about three miles in circumference, including

including the Cathedral, and Gardens. This City and *Shrewsbury* are the two most noted places in *England* for Brawn, of which they send great numbers of collars, every *Christmas*, to *London*.

In finishing this tour, you go directly from *Canterbury* to *Margate*. Some, who have seen *Canterbury*, return from *Douer* to *Margate* by *Waldershare*, a feat of the Earl of *Waldershare*. *Guildford's*, with fine gardens. This manor has at various times been in the possession of the *Mamouths*, *Malmains*, *Goldwells*, *Monins*, and lately belonged to Sir *Robert Furnese*, Bart. It is not unusual sometimes to extend this tour as far as *Rocheſter*, and take the *Iſle of Shepey*, in the way back.

I muſt ſay a few words concerning *Rocheſter*. *Rocheſter*, as it is ſo ancient a City.

It was, paſt all doubt, a *Roman* ſtation, and was called by *Antoninus*, *Durobrivis*, in his *Itinerary*; it probably derives its preſent name from its Caſtle. There is now but one Pariſh Church, dedicated to *St. Nicholas*, tho' there was formerly another, called *St. Clement's*, ſome ruins of which, turned into dwelling houſes, are yet to be ſeen. This city has met with many miſfortunes, having been often burnt, and more frequently ravaged and laid waſte by enemies. The preſent ſtone bridge over the *Medway* was built by Sir *Robert Knolles*, an eminent Captain under *Edward* the third. In *Queen Elizabeth's* reign it underwent a thorough repair, and was brought to the perfection in which we now ſee it. This bridge conſiſts of eleven arches, and is, in truth, a noble ſtructure. There is in this City a handſome Court-houſe, and a Clock and Clock-houſe, which were given by Sir *Cloudeſly Shovel* and Sir *Stafford Fair-*

Fairborne, who represented this City in Parliament, in 1706.

Rocheſter had a Caſtle, ſuppoſed to have been built by *William* the Conqueror, but it is now fallen almoſt to ruin, tho' part of it is kept in repair, and uſed as a magazine, a party of ſoldiers doing duty there. The bridge was repaired in 1744, and palliſadoed with new iron rails. Here is an alms-houſe, founded by one Mr. *Watts*, for relief of poor travellers, excepting the contagiouſly diſeaſed, and rogues, particularly *Proctors*, becauſe one of that faculty, whom he had employed to make his will, had fraudulently made himſelf heir to his eſtate; which he, growing well, diſcovered: It is now ſo improved as to ſet poor to work. The lodgers therein are admitted by tickets from the Mayor. Some of the town walls ſtill remain. The ruinous walls of that called *Gundulph's Tower* are four yards thick. The chalky cliff, under the Caſtle wall, looks romantic; for by its being waſhed away by the rapidity of the ſtream, huge tracts of the wall are tumbled down. The ground on that ſide is low and marſhy, and, being overflowed by every high tide, is neither pleaſant nor wholeſome.

We muſt not quit *Rocheſter*, without taking proper notice of *Chatham*, perhaps the compleateſt naval arſenal in the world. It was built by *Charles* II, after the firſt *Dutch* war, and has ſince been the ſtation for the Royal Navy. The Dock, indeed, (which *Camden* extols as the beſt appointed that ever the Sun ſaw, even in his time,) was begun by Queen *Elizabeth*; for defence of which ſhe raiſed a fort upon the Bank at *Upnor*; but has received wonderful improvements from her ſucceſſors; for King *Charles* I. erected ſeveral arſenals, ſtore-houſes, &c. and a dock; to which *Charles* II, and *James* II, made many farther ad-

ditions of new docks, launches, mast-houses, boat-houses, store-houses, (one 660 feet long) boat-yards, anchor-yards, forges, founderies, canals, and ditches for preserving the masts and yards in water ; and, to defend this place, erected new forts at *Gillingham*, *Cockham Wood*, the swamp, &c. *Queenborough* Castle, and the Royal Fort at *Sheerness*, are also a great guard to it. The public edifices are surprizingly large, and beautiful. The warehouses, or rather streets of warehouses. and store-houses, are the largest in dimension, and most in number, any where to be seen.

In the store-houses are laid up the sails, rigging, ammunition, guns, great and small shot, small arms, swords, cutlasses, half-pikes, with all other furniture of the ships, moored in the *Medway*, powder excepted, which is generally kept in particular magazines, to prevent accidents. All these stores are laid up in separate buildings, and store-houses, appropriated for the furniture of every ship, and may be taken out on the most emergent occasion, without confusion. Besides, these are warehouses for stores, &c. for the ships in general, and others to be built, or for repairing, &c. For this purpose, there are separate and respective magazines of pitch, tar, hemp, flax, tow, rosin, tallow, oil ; also sail-cloth, standing and running rigging, ready fitted, and cordage not fitted ; with blocks, tackles, runners, &c. Cooks, boatswains, and gunners stores : Anchors of all sizes, grappels, chains, bolts, spikes, wrought and unwrought iron, cast iron, pots, cauldrons, furnaces, &c. also boats, spare masts and yards, with great quantities of lead, nails, and all other necessities. The business is done here without the least confusion, so that a first or second rate is often compleatly equipped, for an expedition, in a very few tides. It was here that the *Royal*
London,

London, a first rate, of an hundred guns, was built, compleatly rigged, manned, and gunned, by the City of *London*, and presented to *Charles* II^d. But the mouth of the rivers happened to be so neglected in the *Dutch* war, 1667, that the enemy came up to *Blackstakes*, and fired some of the first rates, and other men of war in the harbour; by which misfortune the *Royal London* became useless for sailing. In the river is a guard-boat, which, like the main guard in a garrison, rows the guard round at certain times by every ship, to see that the people on board are at their posts. If the man placed to look out in each ship calls not, *Who comes there?* the guard-boat immediately boards it, to examine into such neglect of duty.

The Church stands on a precipice, near the yard, and commands an extensive prospect up and down the *Medway*. Under the Church-yard, adjoining to the River, is the gun-yard, in which are several hundreds of the largest and finest guns in the kingdom, fit for immediate use. In the town is a handsome Victualling Office, for more speedily furnishing the men of war with provisions on an emergency. That called the *Chest at Chatham* was instituted 1588, the memorable year of the defeat of the *Spanish* invincible *Armada*; to which, with the advice of *Sir Francis Drake*, *Sir John Hawkins*, and others, the seamen in the service of *Queen Elizabeth* voluntarily assigned a portion of each man's pay to the relief of their then wounded fellows; which method being confirmed by the Queen has been continued ever since. In the late war there were lines drawn, for the defence of *Chatham* yard, and it had a strong garrison. The workmen in the yard are also embodied and disciplined, to assist the garrison in cases of emergency.

Island of
Sheppey.

We shall take a slight view of *Sheppey* Island, thought to be *Ptolemy's Totialis*. It is encompassed by the *East* and *West Swale*, two branches of the *Medway*, which here fall into the *Thames*.

It had its name from the sheep formerly kept on it, remarkable both for their number and fine fleeces. It is twenty-one miles round, yields plenty of corn, but the inhabitants are obliged to buy their wood from the Continent at a dear rate.

The passage hither from the main land of *Kent*, is by *King's Ferry*, where a cable, about 140 fathom long, fastened at each end across the water, serves to get the boat over by hand. There is a house for the ferry-keeper, who is obliged to tow all travellers over free, except on *Palm-Monday*, *Whit-Monday*, *St. James's-Day*, and *Michaelmas-Day*; when a horseman pays two-pence, and a footman a penny. But on *Sunday*, or after eight o'clock at night, he demands six-pence of every horseman, and two-pence of every footman whatsoever.

Most of the springs in this island are brackish; but a well being lately sunk below the bed of the sea, it furnishes *Sheerness* with fresh water.

As there are numerous sea-plants grow in the salt marshes in this isle, Botanists visit them in summer. The *Danes* twice landed and plundered the island, and once wintered their ships in it.

Sheerness.

Sheerness, situate on a point of land where the *West Swale* discharges, has a Royal fort, a regular fortification, raised by King *Charles* the II^d, in the room of that demolished at *Queenborough*, which has a line of cannon, facing the *Medway's* mouth, with good apartments for the officers of the ordnance, navy, and garrison, here being a yard and dock, as an appen-

appendage to *Chatham*, from whence the said yard and garrison are partly supplied with fresh water.

A regard to what it formerly was, may possibly induce you to pay a visit to *Queenborough*, especially when you are so near it, as *Sheerness*. It had its name given it by its builder King *Edward* the III^d, in honour of his Queen.

He built its Castle, and made it a Corporation, governed by a Mayor, four Jurats, Constable, Town-Serjeant, and a Land and Water-Bailiff; granting it cognizance of Pleas; Markets *Monday* and *Thursday*, Fairs *March* 24, and *St. James's* day, with the toll and other privileges, to encourage people to dwell in it; but the markets have been long since disused; and tho' it has a Mayor, &c. and sends two Members to Parliament, it is become a dirty poor place, the chief towns men being oyster-dredgers and alehouse-keepers. While the Castle was properly maintained, many of its Governors, who had the title of Constables, were men of great consideration.

This Castle, so late as A. D. 1629, was standing, strong and in good repair; there are now scarce any remains of it; the ground on which it stood is moated round, and there is a well forty fathom deep still remaining.

Milton is worthy of some notice, not only on account of the excellent *Milton*. oysters it affords, but also because there was formerly in it a Royal Palace, which was castillated, and stood beneath the Church. It was a Royal town in *Alfred's* time, was destroyed by Earl *Goodwin* in *Edward* the Confessor's reign, and, as being royal, was, even so late as Queen *Elizabeth's* reign, accounted to have some peculiar privileges and advantages. The town is still governed by an Officer who bears the old

Saxon name of *Portreeve*; he is chosen annually on *St. James's* day, and supervises the weights and measures all over the Hundred of *Milton*.

The Church is near a mile from the town; and the town, which has a port for barges, is so hid among the creeks of the *East Swale*, that it is scarcely to be seen either by water or land; and yet it is a large town, with a considerable market on *Saturdays*, for corn, fruit, and other provisions, which, with the oysters taken in the grounds hereabouts, are mostly sent to *London*.

I have only *Feversham* to mention *Feversham*. to you now, to finish this little tour,

It is a member of the town and port of *Dover*; and a market-town, large and fair, had formerly a monastery in it, some ruins of which are still remaining. The Church is large, and has in it several very curious monuments. It is chiefly inhabited by fishermen and sea-faring people. The fishermen have a very good custom here; they will admit no one to take up his freedom, unless he be a married man.

It is so ancient a town, that it was a Royal Demesne in 802, and in *Kenulfe's* Charter called the *King's Little Town*. King *Athelstan*, in 903, summoned a great Council here, in which he enacted several laws.

The Monastery mentioned above was erected by King *Stephen*; its Abbots sat in Parliament. King *Stephen*, with his Queen *Maud*, and son *Eustace*, were buried in it; two Gatehouses only are left, under which you pass in going from the town to the River. Its incorporation now consists of a Mayor, Jurats, and Commonalty.

It is a populous flourishing place, situated in so fruitful a part of the country, that it might be called its garden, and has the advantage of a creek from the *Thames*, or that branch of it called the

the *Swale*, which is navigable by hoys, &c. Here King *James* the II^d was stopped on board a smack, when he was flying away to *France*, on the arrival of the Prince of *Orange*. It is one of the towns which supply the *London* markets with apples, cherries, and the largest and best oysters, for stewing. Of these last, the *Dutch* also fetch away such quantities, that a prodigious number of men and boats are employed in winter in dredging for them.

This town used to be notorious for running goods from *France* and *Holland*, and also transporting wool, to which the *Dutch* oyster-boats were subservient. The town consists chiefly of one long and broad street, with a market-house. Near this place (as well as other parts of *Kent*) are four pits, narrow at top and wide at bottom, which, whether dug by the ancient *Britons*, for chalk to manure their land, or by the *Saxons*, after the manner of the ancient *Germans*, to preserve their corn in, from extreme cold weather, or surprize of enemies, is not easily determined.

In the fine summer weather, nothing can be more agreeable than taking a little tour along the sea coasts of *Kent*.

I have already carried you as far as *Dover*, from whence we will now *Folkstone*. proceed to *Folkstone*. This is a very ancient town, which is sufficiently proved by the great number of *Roman* coins, and *British* or *Roman* bricks, which are frequently found here. Here was probably one of the Towers, which the *Romans*, in the time of *Theodosius* the younger, built upon the sea coast, to defend them against the *Saxons*. Earl *Goodwin*, when he ravaged the coasts of *England*, did much mischief here, plundering the town, destroying the Churches, at least four out of five, which were then the number, and

and have never since been rebuilt. About a thousand years ago a Castle was built here by *Eadbald*, King of *Kent*, at the South part of the town; but this building falling to decay, *William de Albranceü* built a fort on its ruins, about 1068, making use of the old materials. The remains of this fort are still visible.

We must not expect to find in *England* many buildings actually erected by the *Romans*, whilst they were in the island. Time, which destroys all things, must likewise have ruined them; yet as the *Romans*, for the most part, made choice of very convenient and healthy spots, whereon to erect their fortresses and stations, it is not at all improbable, but our *British* and *Saxon* ancestors pitched upon these very places to build their towns on, and consequently made use of the materials they found on the spot which were fit for their purpose. This accounts for the bricks found in the ruins of very ancient buildings, being by some antiquaries called *British*, by others *Roman*. The sort of bricks above mentioned was doubtless originally *Roman*, but made use of afterwards by the *Britons* or *Saxons*, when they built the Castles, of which so many remains are now to be seen in most parts of the Kingdom; and indeed, after the *Romans* had been some time seated in *Britain*, it is not impossible but that bricks made in that form, and of the same materials as those now called *Roman*, might be very commonly made by the inhabitants, and be in general use all over the island. But to return to *Folkstone*.

Upon a hill in this town, yet called *Castle-hill*, stood a *Pharos*, or watch-tower, now in ruins. *Henry* the VIIIth also built a castle here, called *Sandgate Castle*, at the same time he built *Deal*, *Walmer* and *Sandown Castles*. That at *Folkstone* cost him 5000 *l.* a great sum in those days.

I have

I have mentioned above, that *Folkstone* had formerly five Parish Churches, three of which were dedicated to *St. Peter*, *St. Mary*, and *St. Paul*, all which, and one more, the name of it unknown, were demolished; the only Church now remaining is dedicated to *St. Mary* and *St. Eadwich*. *John Lord Finet*, Constable of *Dover Castle* in the time of *William the Conqueror*, is buried is one of them.

Eadbald above mentioned also built a nunnery here, of great repute in those times, his two sons and daughter becoming Monks and Nun in it; but its situation being but twenty-eight rods from the sea, it was at length quite swallowed up by it. The town is incorporated by the name of Mayor, Jurats, and Commonalty.

It is observable, that some hills in the neighbourhood have visibly sunk lower within the memory of man. *Dr. Harvey*, who discovered the circulation of the blood, was born here. Tho' it seems but a miserable fishing town; yet above 300 boats belong to it, which are, in the season, employed in catching mackarel for *London*, whose smacks come hither for them.

The *Folkstone* barks, with others from the coasts of *Sussex*, sail to those of *Norfolk* and *Suffolk*, to catch herrings for the merchants of *Yarmouth*.

The next place of any consequence, that occurs on the coast, is *Hythe*, one of the *Cinque Ports*. It owes its origin to the decay of *Lime* and *West Hythe*, two neighbouring villages; these were once famous sea ports, but their harbours have been long blocked up; and now *Hythe* itself is become almost useless as a port, as nearly the same fate has befallen it. It is a very ancient Corporation, and is governed by a Mayor and Jurats. In the time of the *Romans*, the Captain of the *Turnacenses* kept here

here his station, under the Count of the *Saxon* shore. There is a fine paved Military-way from hence to *Canterbury*, which evidently appears to be the work of the *Romans*; it is called *Stony Street*.

At a small distance is a Castle, on the declivity of a hill, containing ten acres; it is a noble piece of antiquity, and is thought, by the author of the *Additions to Camden*, to be the *Portus Lemanis* of the *Romans*; this is far from being improbable, as the sea doubtless came up thus far, and as the remains of the walls contain many *Roman* bricks, and a very remarkable cement, so strong, as still to retain perhaps more than its original hardness. The walls were composed of the bricks above-mentioned, and flints.

Here it is, at a place called *Shipway*, the Lord Warden of the *Cinque Ports* should take his Oath. There were anciently five Churches in this town, *St. Mary*, *St. Nicholas*, *St. Michael*, *St. Bernard*, and *St. Leonard*; of these only the last remains, the rest being entirely demolished. The market here is on *Saturdays*, and they have two fairs, viz. *June 29*, and *November 20*.

A fire in the reign of *Henry IV.* consumed 200 of it's houses, &c. and four of the Churches above mentioned. Here are two hospitals.

There is a surprizing collection of several thousand skulls, and bones of gigantic size, in a vault under the Church here, placed as orderly as books in a library, with an inscription of their being those of the *Danes*, killed in a battle near this place, before the *Norman Conquest*. The pile is twenty-eight feet long, six broad, and eight high.

The steeple fell down in *April 1739*, with six bells, just as some people waited in the Church porch for the keys to go up into it, and they were providentially none of them hurt.

I shall

I shall next venture to lead you to *Romney*, tho' the air is not reckoned very wholesome.

Old Romney was anciently a considerable port and harbour, as Earl *Old Romney.* *Godwin*, when he plundered the coasts, entered it, and took thence many ships. The place is now of no note; for somewhat before the *Conquest* the sea by degrees retired from it, withdrawing itself from a large tract of land, and thereby ruining the town and the harbour.

It was once a large town, with twelve Wards, five Churches, a Priory, and an Hospital, and the sea came so close, that ships used to anchor in one of the Church-yards. It has now but one Church.

By a storm, *November 23, 1334*, above three hundred houses and wind-mills were carried away, which, together with the sea's withdrawing, so impoverished the place, that it could never recover itself.

New Romney became then in esteem, and was made one of the *Cinque Ports*. *New Romney.* *Ports*, having *Old Romney* and *Lid* as members of it. It is governed by a Mayor and Jurats, and was, at the time of the *Conquest*, a very considerable town; but in the reign of *Edward* the 1st the sea broke in upon it, and did great damage, destroyed great numbers of men and cattle, turned the course of the *Rother*, and ruined the haven, and afterwards so far withdrew itself from the town, as to make it abate much of its populousness and trade; yet here are held the great meetings for the *Cinque Ports*, called *Gesling*, annually on *July 20*. The market-day is *Saturday*, and the fair is kept *August 10*. It had anciently five churches, dedicated to *St. Lawrence*, *St. Martin*, *St. John Baptist*, one unknown, and *St. Nicholas*; the last only remains.

Near

Near this town is that extensive level of very rich pasture commonly called *Romney-Marsh*, at several successive periods inned from the sea, which by little and little withdrew itself from that part of the coast. It is fourteen miles long and eight broad, and contains above 44,200 acres, including *Walland* and *Gulford Marshes*, two towns, nineteen parishes and villages.

The inhabitants, indeed, are not very numerous, as the air is unwholesome; but great encouragements are given for such as will live there. Courts are held within the Corporation; they have many privileges, and perhaps more exemptions from taxes, &c. than any other place in *England*. And all these privileges are granted (as the Charter expresses it) to allure men to inhabit it. Besides these Royal privileges, there are certain ancient and wholesome ordinances, for regulating the pasturages, and preserving and maintaining the sea banks and walls. These are called *Statutes of Sewers*, and were first made by one *Henry Bath*, who lived in the time of King *Henry* the III^d, and was appointed a Justice and Commissioner for that purpose. These have been so much approved of, that it has since been ordered, that all the low grounds or marshes betwixt the Island of *Thanet* and *Pemsey* in *Sussex*, should be governed by them.

The Sheep of *Romney-Marsh* are reckoned rather larger than those of *Leicestershire* and *Lincolnshire*, and the Bullocks the largest in *England*, especially stalled oxen, so called from being kept all the latter season within farmers yards, or sheds, where they are fed for the winter.

This marsh is the place whence *Owlers* have for so many ages exported our wool to *France*. Great trees are often found lying at length under ground,

ground, as black as ebony, yet they are very fit for use when dried in the sun.

I shall mention but one place more on this coast, which is *Lid*, at no great distance from the promontory or point of land called *Dengy-ness*. In the beach near *Stone End*, at the East-side of this Parish, is seen a great heap of stones, which the inhabitants call the Tomb of *St. Crispin* and *Crispianus*, who, as the tradition is, were buried there.

Near the sea, also on the South-side of this Parish, is a place called *Holmstone*, consisting of beach and pebble stones; yet Holm-trees grow plentifully upon the same. You may from hence return to *Canterbury*, and so to *Margate*; or, what is much pleasanter in summer, go back to *Margate* by sea in a coaster, and by that means sail the whole length of the *Downs*, than which there cannot be a more agreeable little voyage.

The whole length of the Coast of *Kent* affords very pleasant prospects, and in this little sea voyage we pass thro' that famous road for shipping, so well known over the trading world by the name of the *Downs*, in which are sometimes five or six hundred sail of ships riding at once,

The *Downs* would be a very wild and dangerous Road, were it not for the *South Foreland*, a head of land forming the East point of the *Kentish* shore, and is called the *South*, as its situation respects the *North Foreland*; it breaks the sea off, which would otherwise come rolling up from the West, to the flats or banks of sand, which, for three leagues together, and at about a league or a league and a half distance, run parallel with the shore, and are dry at low water; so that these two, breaking all the force of the sea, on the East, South, and South West, make the *Downs* accounted a very good road.

Yet on some particular winds, and especially if they overblow, the *Downs* prove such a wild road, that ships are driven from their anchors, and often run on shore, or are forced on the flats above-mentioned, or into *Sandwich Bay* or *Ramsgate Pier*, in great distress; this is particularly when the wind blows hard at South East, or East by North, or East North East, and some other points; and terrible havock has been made in the *Downs* at such times.

In the great storm which happened on the 27th of *November*, 1703, a great part of the Royal Navy was come into the *Downs*, in their way to *Chatham*, to be laid up. Five of the largest ships had the good fortune to push thro' the *Downs* the day before, finding the wind then blew very hard, and were come to an anchor at the *Gunfleet*; and had they had but one fair day more, they had been all safe at the *Nore*, or in the river *Medway* at *Blackstake*s.

There remained in the *Downs* about twelve sail, when this terrible storm began, at which time *England* may be said to have received the greatest loss that ever happened to her Royal Navy at any one period, either by foul weather, enemies, or other accident whatsoever, of which the following is a short account.

The *Northumberland*, a third rate, carrying 70 guns, and 353 men; the *Restoration*, a second rate, 76 guns, and 386 men; the *Stirling-Castle*, a second rate, 80 guns and 400 men, but had only 349 on board; and the *Mary*, a third rate of 64 guns, having 273 men on board.

These were all lost, with all their men, except one man out of the *Mary*, and 70 men out of the *Stirling-Castle*, who were taken up by the boats from *Deal*. All this was besides the loss of merchant ships, which was exceeding great, not only

only here, but in almost all the ports of the South and West of *England*, and also in *Ireland*.

The sea gains so much upon the land at the *North Foreland*, by the winds at South West, that within the memory of some that are living, above thirty acres of land have been lost in one place.

All vessels that pass on the South-side of the *Head-Land* are said to enter the Channel, which is the name for the narrow sea between *England* and *France*, or rather *St. George's Channel*; and all the towns or harbours between *London* and this place, whether on the *Kentish* or *Essex* shore, are by act of Parliament described to be within the port of *London*, and members of it.

I have now, I think, performed the task you enjoined me, and hope it will induce you to spend much of your time among us. I do not attempt, you find, to give you full descriptions of the places you are to visit; if I point out to you some of the antiquities, the desire a man naturally has to satisfy his curiosity, will sufficiently prompt you to enquire into their present state. Was I to be more particular, I should exceed the bounds of a letter.

I therefore rather chuse to refer you to the first Vol. of a Tour through *Great Britain*, where you may receive a very particular and satisfactory account of them.

I hardly know how to conclude this Letter, without sending you a few lines relative to the subject of it, extracted from a Poem on *Good-Nature*, lately published by the Rev. Mr. *Dodd*.

“ Oh! while on *Margate's* sea worn coast you tread,
 “ And court the rosy nymph *Hygeia* * blest,
 “ To your embraces in the briny waves;
 “ May soft Good-Nature on each social scheme
 “ Attend concomitant. Whether you tread
 “ With jocund feet to *Draper's* or *Nash-Court*;

* Health.

" Or with profound amaze from *Light-House* view
 " The vast domain of *Neptune*, and admire
 " His azure waves, fringed with the silver foam ;
 " Whether on sober palfry, or in coach
 " Drawn by *Margatian* steeds, much toil'd, ill fed,
 " You visit, or fam'd *Ramsgate's* rising pier,
 " Slow work of public cost, or the vast cliffs
 " And scenes romantic of fair *Dover* view ;
 " " Where late we stood
 " Mere pigmies on the strand ; and strain'd our sight
 " To reach the top of that cloud vested cliff,
 " Meet emblems of his genius, high who tow'rs
 " Above his brother Bards, as that white rock,
 " Firm rooted as his fame, rears o'er the rest
 " Its fearful nodding summit---or if at home
 " In all the elegance of dress you tread,
 " And give a lustre to the sprightly rooms ;
 " Where-e'er you pass, ah ! may the smiling nymph
 " Diffuse her joys emollient.
 " Then farewell ! oh my friends, and ye white cliffs,
 " Beneath whose tow'ring height so oft I walk'd
 " On the smooth level sand, while all my soul
 " Was wrapt into astonishment and praise
 " At thy tremendous works, Maker omnipotent !"

You receive this letter for your own information and amusement ; but if you think it may answer the same purpose to others, you have my leave to publish it, only in that case you will be pleased to correct such errors as may have been occasioned by haste or inadvertency.

I have the honour to be, Your's &c. T. G.

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Ditto roasted	2 6
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EXPLANATION of the STRUCTURE of the MACHINE.

A. The Bathing Room, to the steps of which the Machine B. is driving, with its umbrella drawn up.

C. A back view of the Machine, shewing its steps, and the folding doors which open into a Bath of eight feet by thirteen feet, formed by the fall of the umbrella.

D. The Machine, as used in Bathing, with its umbrella down.

The entrance into the Machine is through a door, at the back of the driver, who sits on a moveable bench, and raises or lets fall the umbrella by means of a line, which runs along the top of the Machine, and is fastened to a pin over the

the door. This line is guided by a piece of wood of three feet in length, which projects, pointing a little downward, from the top of the back part of the Machine, through which it passes, in a sloping direction. To the end of this piece is suspended a cord, for the Bather to lay hold on, if he wants support.

The umbrella is formed of light canvas, spread on four hoops. The height of each of which is seven feet, and each is eight feet wide at its axis.

The last hoop falls to an horizontal level with its axis, from whence depends the curtain.

The pieces which support the hoops are about six feet in length; they are fastened to the bottom of the Machine, but are extended, by a small curve, about one foot wider than the body of it on each side. The hoops move in grooves in these pieces. The distance of the axis of the first hoop is more than two feet from the Machine; of the rest from each other, something more than one foot; but no great exactness is required in these proportions, as scarce any two of them are built alike.



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